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AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

# PROBABLE SOLID PROPELLANTS TEST FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED PRODUCTION FACILITIES NEAR PERM, USSR



CIA

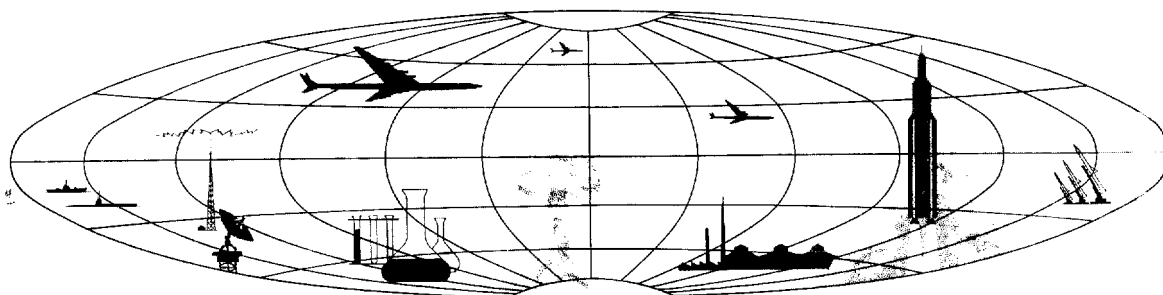


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## PROBABLE SOLID PROPELLANTS TEST FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED PRODUCTION FACILITIES NEAR PERM, USSR

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to present descriptions of the Perm Probable Solid Propellants Test Facility and various associated production facilities including suspect solid propellants manufacturing areas, an explosives manufacturing plant, and an area of unidentified new construction.

The Perm Probable Solid Propellants Test Facility is located at 57-58N 55-52E, approximately 9 nautical miles (nm) west-southwest of the railroad bridge which crosses the Kama River in the city of Perm, USSR (Figure 1). This test facility is adjacent to the Perm Munitions and Chemical Combine K. Kirov No 98 ( ) on the north bank of the Kama River (Figure 2).

### PROBABLE SOLID PROPELLANTS TEST FACILITY

The Perm Probable Solid Propellants Test Facility (Figures 3 and 4) occupies a walled area measuring approximately 4,500 by 1,700 feet and is rail served. It consists of the following structures: one test cell (item 1, Figure 4) and its associated blast deflector; an irregularly shaped building with 4 sections (item 5) which is a modified H-shaped building and probably serves the same purpose as the H-shaped buildings at Biysk, Krasnoyarsk, and Sterlitamak; a high-bay building (item 6), and three other major buildings (items 2, 3, and 4). A perspective drawing of the facility is shown on Figure 5.

The earliest photography of the test facility was obtained in ( ) when

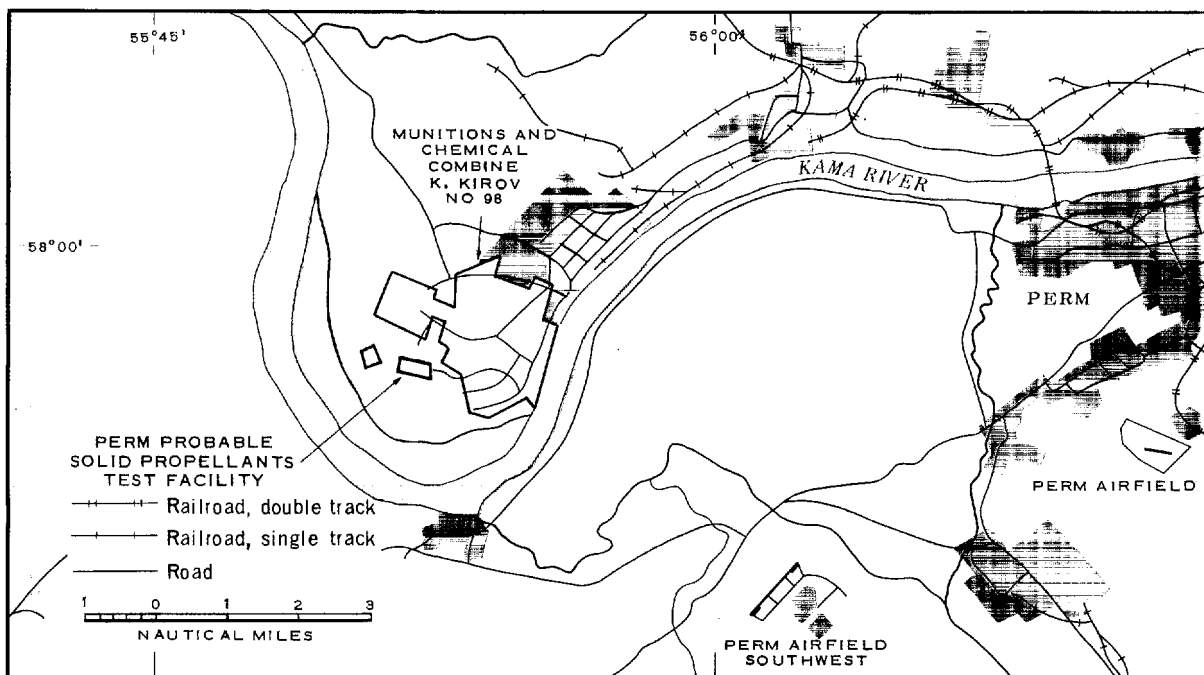


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP.

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the facility was under construction, at which time only the blast deflector and the dim outlines of the rest of the facility were visible. The test cell and 5 of the support buildings were complete in [ ] when it was seen clearly for the first time. Photography of [ ] revealed

more details of the test facility, but it was not until [ ] that the high-bay building (item 6) appeared and the associated buildings could be seen in detail. [ ] the major buildings appeared to be complete, but the operational status of the test facility was

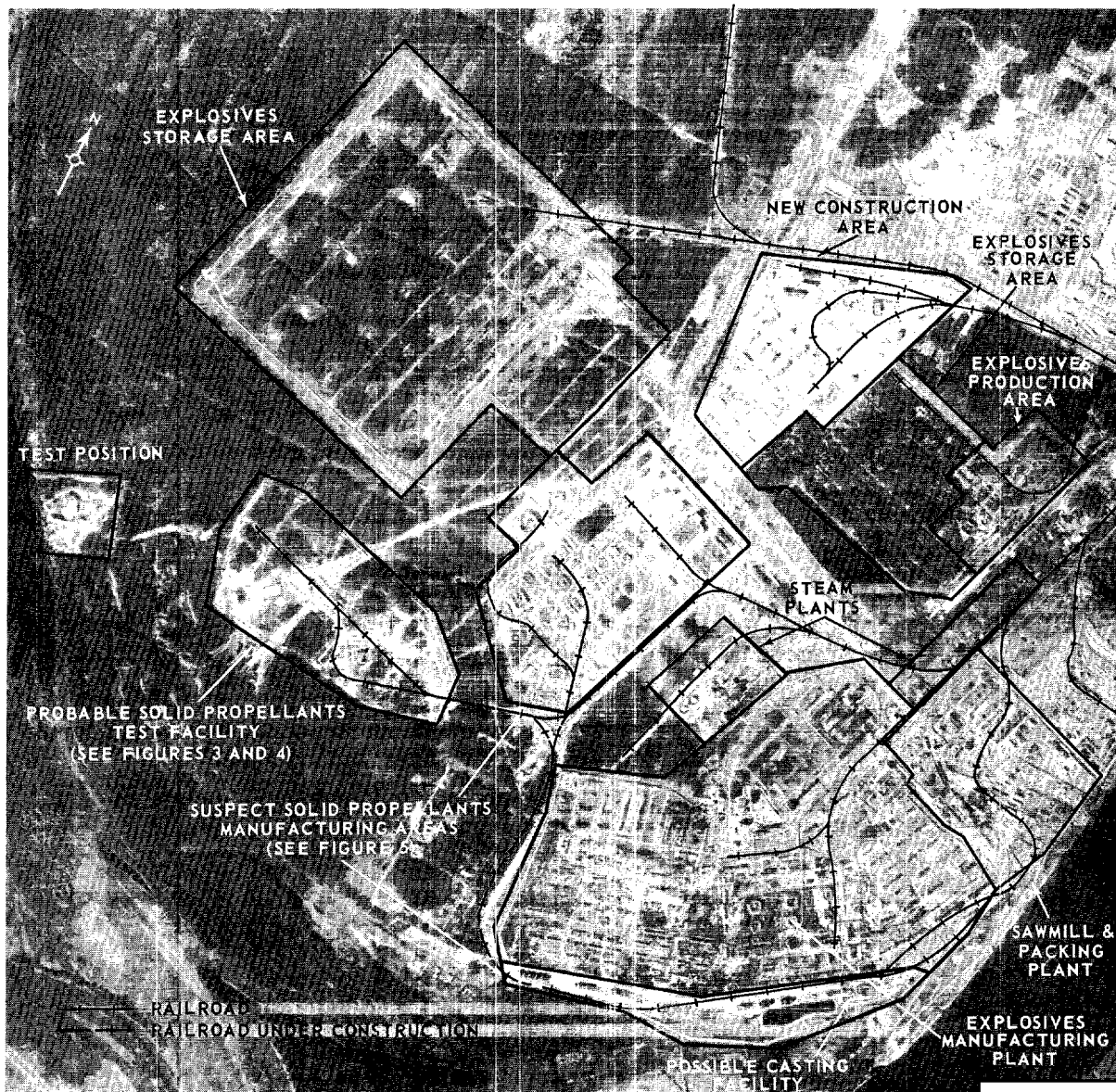


FIGURE 2. PROBABLE SOLID PROPELLANTS TEST FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES NEAR PERM, USSR, [ ]

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TOP SECRET

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FIGURE 3. THE PROBABLE SOLID PROPELLANTS TEST FACILITY

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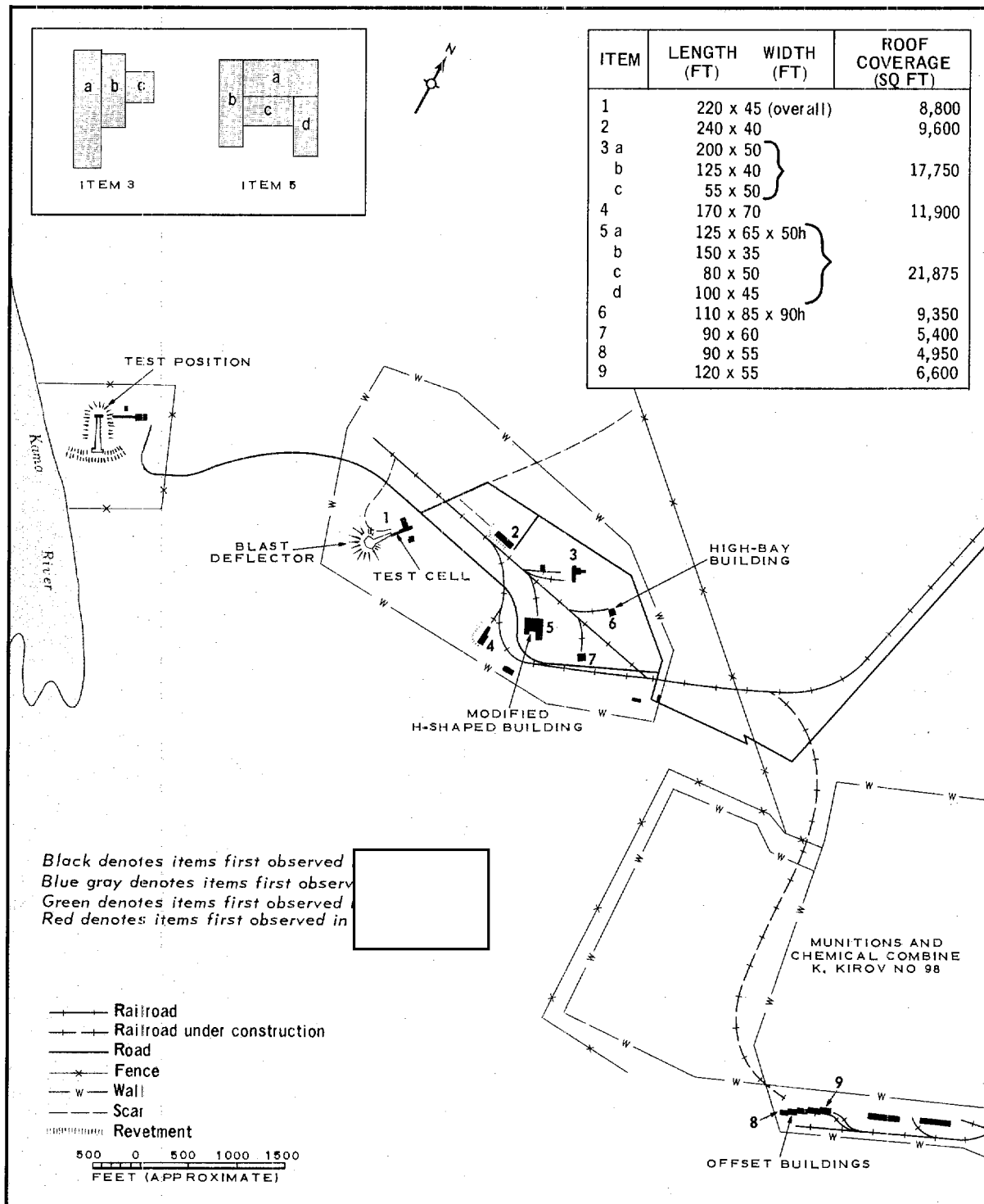


FIGURE 4. THE PROBABLE SOLID PROPELLANTS TEST FACILITY.

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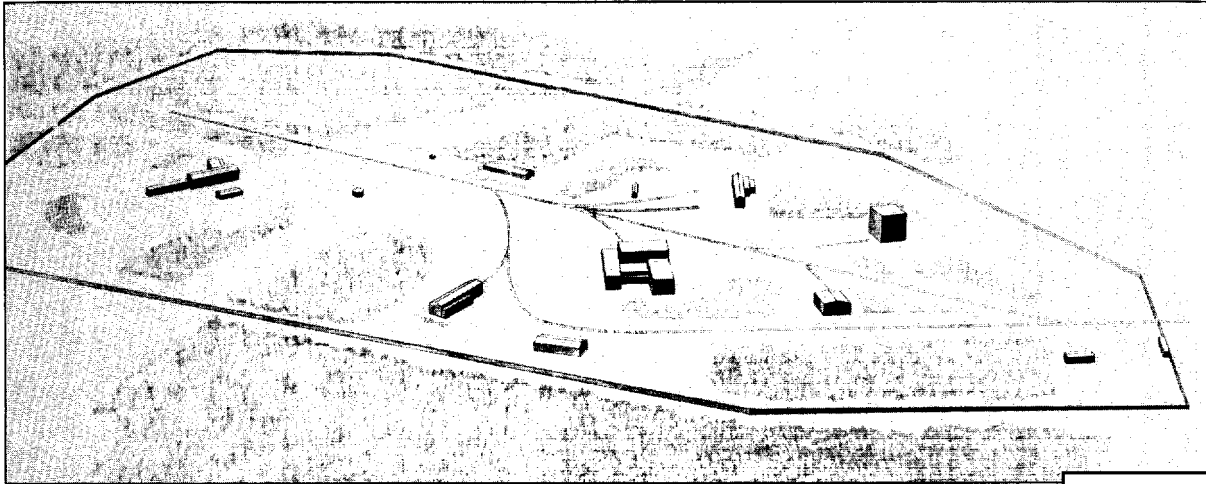


FIGURE 5. PERSPECTIVE DRAWING OF THE PROBABLE SOLID PROPELLANTS TEST FACILITY.

still in doubt because some rail lines appeared to be still under construction. There is no photographic evidence that any test firing has occurred to date.

An area located approximately 1,800 feet west of the test facility, which resembled a burn area until seen clearly on photography of [redacted] is now identified as a test position (Figures 2 and 4). This test position is in a fenced enclosure measuring approximately 1,300 by 1,150 feet and consists of two revetments (one U-shaped and one curved) so arranged as to create a central protected area.

A group of 5 offset buildings (items 8 and 9, Figure 4) is located approximately 4,400 feet southeast of the test facility within a suspect solid propellants manufacturing area (Figure 2). These are probably environmental control buildings. A rail spur under construction connecting the offset buildings with the test facility is seen on photography of [redacted]

#### **SUSPECT SOLID PROPELLANTS MANUFACTURING AREAS**

Two separate, but probably interrelated, manufacturing areas are located near the Prob-

able Solid Propellants Test Facility (Figures 2 and 6). A definite function cannot presently be assigned to these areas, but their period of development, similarity to typical explosives manufacturing areas, and relationship to other facilities within the complex make them suspect as producers of solid propellants.

The northernmost of the two areas contains 19 revetted structures, one large production building and at least 12 other buildings. The southernmost area consists of 5 rail-served offset buildings, 5 rail-served production buildings, and a large possible casting facility. The casting facility includes 5 cylindrical objects which have diameters varying from approximately 30 to 40 feet. It is shown in a perspective view on Figure 7.

When first observed on poor-quality photography of [redacted] some clearing activity and ground scarring were evident in these areas. Better photography of [redacted] revealed the presence of approximately 17 buildings in various stages of construction including the 5 offset buildings. In [redacted] continued construction was evident including the beginning of the pos-

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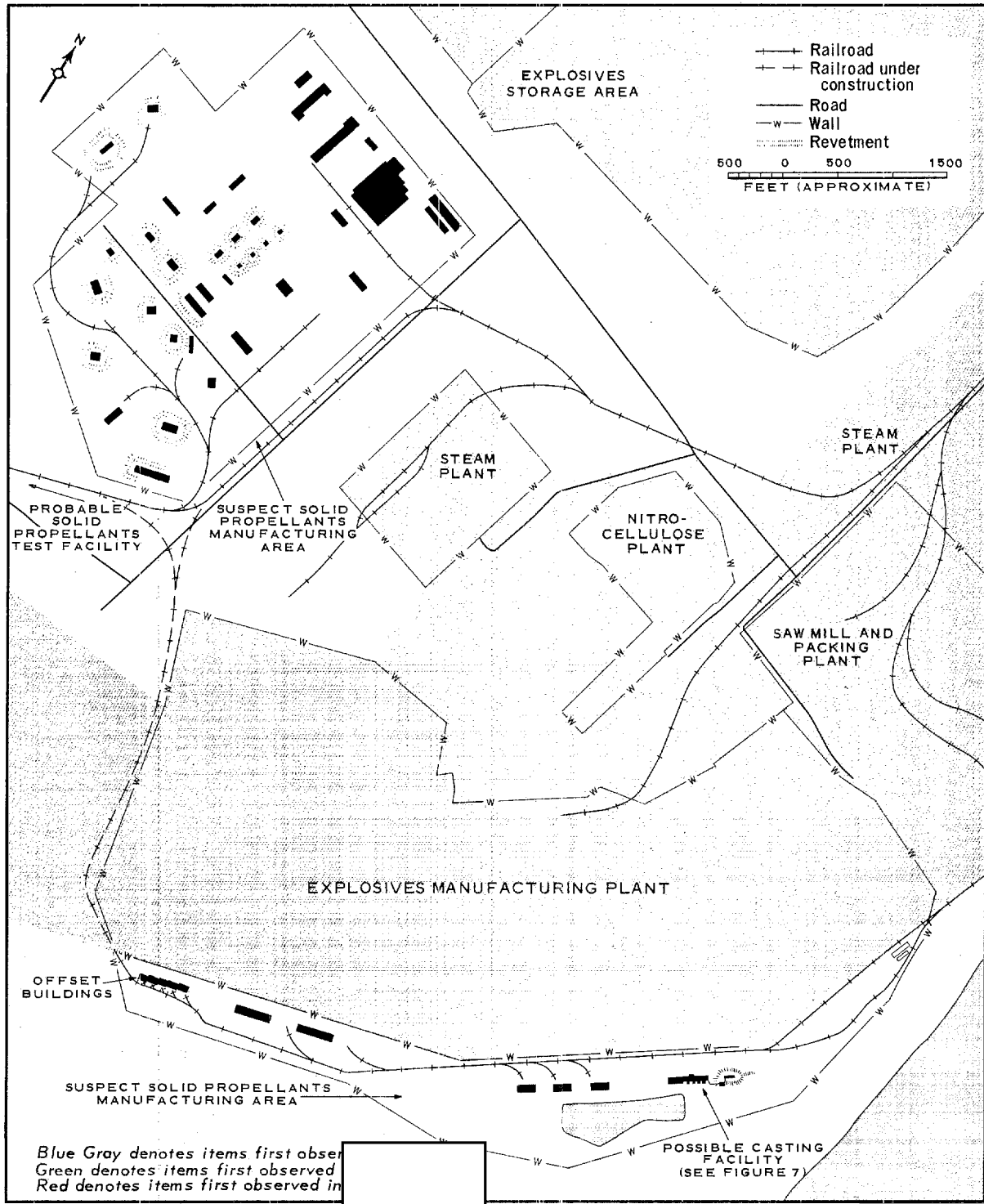


FIGURE 6. THE SUSPECT SOLID PROPELLANTS MANUFACTURING AREAS.

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sible casting facility. [ ]  
[ ] both areas appeared to be in the  
final stages of construction. [ ]  
[ ] the cylindrical objects in the  
possible casting facility appeared to have been  
mounded with earth, and smoke was rising from  
the facility suggesting that it had gone into  
operation.

Various features of the areas, particularly  
the possible casting facility, provide indications  
that the products manufactured are new types  
of explosives and/or specialized propellants  
for rocket motors. The two areas are con-  
nected with the Probable Solid Propellants  
Test Facility by road and by rail spurs under  
construction, and they were developed within  
the same time period as the test facility.

#### EXPLOSIVES MANUFACTURING PLANT

The explosives manufacturing plant is lo-  
cated east of the test facility (Figure 2) and  
was probably in operation in [ ]  
[ ] when it was first observed on poor-  
quality photography. The first good photog-  
raphy, obtained in [ ]  
revealed that this plant probably had the capa-  
bility to produce military explosives such as  
initiators, bursting charges, and propellants.  
Photography of [ ] re-  
vealed the beginning of some construction near  
the northern edge of the plant. Photography  
[ ]  
[ ] shows no additional  
areas of construction in this plant.

#### NEW CONSTRUCTION AREA

Construction activity is evident in an area  
adjacent to the northernmost Suspect Solid  
Propellant Manufacturing Area (Figure 2). At

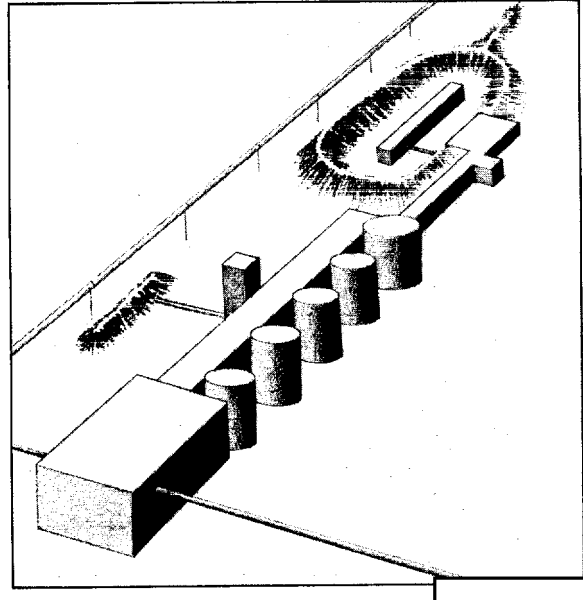


FIGURE 7. PERSPECTIVE DRAWING OF THE POSSIBLE  
CASTING FACILITY.

present the early stages of construction are  
such that the eventual function of this area  
cannot be determined. It appears, however,  
that the area may be designed to produce a  
new type of explosive or a specialized propel-  
lant rather than to expand the existing ex-  
plosives manufacturing capabilities.

No evidence of activity was present on  
photography of [ ] but  
about a year later one large and approximately  
8 small buildings could be seen in this area  
[ ]  
[ ] several more buildings had  
been added. Good photography of [ ]  
[ ] shows that active con-  
struction is continuing in this area and that  
it now contains one revetted building, one large  
revetted structure under construction, 3 large  
rail-served rectangular buildings (2 of which  
are under construction), about 12 major build-  
ings, and several small structures.

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REFERENCES

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MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0156-11HL, 1st ed, Jun 63, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

RELATED DOCUMENT

CIA. PIR-17/63, *Probable Solid Propellants Testing Facilities and Associated Explosives Plants in the USSR*,  
Dec 63 (TOP SECRET)

REQUIREMENT

CIA. C-RR4-81,679

NPIC PROJECT

11683-4 (partial answer)

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